

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/920,073

Examiner

Harold E. Dodds, Jr.

Applicant(s)

VIRAG ET AL.

Art Unit

2168

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 29 September 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-52.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Harold E. Dodds, Jr.  
Patent Examiner

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Mancini on 14 December 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follows:  
In the Specification on page 1 from lines 5 through line 13, **delete**

~~CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION~~

~~Not Applicable.~~

~~STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH~~

~~Not Applicable.~~

~~REFERENCE TO MICROFICHE APPENDIX~~

~~Not Applicable.~~

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:  
Examiner finds Applicants' arguments on pages 12-15 of the "Amendment" filed on 29 September 2005 concerning a method for managing environmental audit information persuasive as applied to independent claims 1 and 24. The combinations of prior art from Wenig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,298) and Sellers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,311,438) neither renders obvious nor anticipates the combination of recited elements

in light of claims 1 and 24. In particular, the above cited references neither renders obvious nor anticipates the combination of recited elements in the phrase "accessing an audit summary report", which was added in the amendment.

5. Examiner finds Applicants' arguments on pages 15-16 of the "Amendment" filed on 29 September 2005 concerning a method for managing environmental audit information persuasive as applied to independent claims 13, 36, 47, and 50. The combinations of prior art from Wenig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,298), Sellers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,311,438), and Reuhl (U.S. Patent No. 5,873,069) neither renders obvious nor anticipates the combination of recited elements in light of claims 13, 36, 47, and 50. In particular, the above cited references neither renders obvious nor anticipates the combination of recited elements in the phrase "accessing an audit summary report", which was added in the amendment.

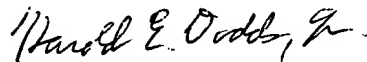
### **CONSLUSION**

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold E. Dodds, Jr. whose telephone number is (571)-272-4110. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on (571)-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Harold E. Dodds, Jr.  
Patent Examiner  
December 13, 2005

